

**--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The invention relates to a protective cap for at least one contact pipe of a welding torch, the pipe or pipes having a respective bore for guiding and contacting a respective welding rod that is fed through the pipe or pipes. The cap comprises a housing consisting of or coated with a poor electrically conductive material, for receiving the contact pipe and a bore, which allows the welding rod to emerge. The aim of the invention is to increase the service life of a contact pipe or a welding torch comprising at least one contact pipe of this type. To achieve this, at least two openings are provided in the housing for receiving at least two contact pipes and each opening is connected to one respective bore in the housing for receiving at least two contact pipes and each opening is connected to one respective bore in the housing. Each bore is positioned in such a way that it corresponds with the course of the welding rod in the contact pipe, once the protective cap has been mounted. This permits a welding rod to be fed through the bores of each contact pipe and each bore of the protective cap and to emerge at a welding point.--